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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/044,207	01/11/2002	Shankar Moni	14531.134	6034
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WORKMAN NYDEGGER/MICROSOFT 1000 EAGLE GATE TOWER 60 EAST SOUTH TEMPLE SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84111				TORRES, JUAN A
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		2631		

DATE MAILED: 02/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/044,207	MONI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Juan A. Torres	2631	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06/08/2005.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-60 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-60 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 01/11/2002 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION***Claim Objections***

In view of the amendment filed on 06/08/2005, the Examiner withdraws claim objections of the previous Office action.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed on 01/23/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

As per claim 1:

The Applicant contends, "Although the cited art is generally directed to methods and systems for transcoding video, it clearly fails to anticipate or make obvious the claimed invention. In fact, Panusopone actually appears to teach away from the recited claim embodiments. For example, Panusopone actually states, with specific regard to the size transcoder that B frames may be present in the input bitstream, but are discarded by the transcoder and therefore do not appear in the output bitstream." In view of this, Panusopone clearly does not teach or suggest the claimed invention and should not be used in combination with any other cited art including

but not limited to Wee for purportedly teaching the claimed invention, in which the transcoding and spatial reduction includes consideration of B frames, particularly in combination with the other recited claim elements".

The Examiner disagrees and asserts, that, Panusopone discloses that in the abstract that "In one embodiment, a low complexity front-to-back transcoder (with B frames disabled) avoids the need for motion compensation processing. In

another embodiment, a transcoder architecture that minimizes drift error (with B frames enabled) is provided. In another embodiment, a size transcoder (with B frames enabled) is provided, e.g., to convert a bitstream of ITU-R 601 interlaced video coding with MPEG-2 MP@ML into a simple profile MPEG-4 bitstream which contains SIF progressive video suitable for a streaming video application. For spatial downscaling of field-mode DCT blocks, vertical and horizontal downscaling techniques are combined to use sparse matrixes to reduce computations", so in the abstract Panusopone discloses 3 embodiments one with B frames disable and two with B frames enable. For this reason it is clear that Panusopone is not teaching away. For these reasons and the reasons indicated in the previous Office action the rejections of claims 1-60 are maintained.

Drawings

Figure 6 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art—(see Vetro (US 6671322 B2) figures 3 and 4) because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g).

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: "103" (figure 1); "600" and "612" (figure 6; see also specification objections to paragraph [057]);

Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures.

If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

- a) Page 7 paragraph [019], at the end the recitation "macroblocks;;" is improper because uses ";;"; it is suggested to be changed to "macroblocks;" .
- b) Page 19 paragraph [057] "[057] The coded block pattern is dependent on the quantization of the DCT coefficients and is computed in a routine manner. The DCT coefficients are computed as illustrated in FIG. 6. When a block 602 is a non-intra block, the motion vectors are used to determine the prediction 614 from the reference frames. The prediction 614 is subtracted from the block 602 and a forward DCT 604 is performed on the output. The output is quantized (606) and variable length coded (608) and written as an output bit stream. In the case of I and P frames, inverse quantization 610 and inverse DCT are performed on the output of the quantization process (606) and the prediction is added (614) to new frames as described. Intra blocks do not require prediction and can be quantized without reference to other blocks", seems to be inaccurate in the way reference number are used; it is suggested to be changed to "[057] The coded block pattern is dependent on the quantization of the DCT coefficients and is computed in a routine manner. The DCT coefficients are computed as illustrated in FIG. 6. When a block 600 is a non-intra block, the motion vectors are used to determine the prediction 614 from the reference frames. The prediction 614 is

subtracted (602) from the block 600 and a forward DCT 604 is performed on the output. The output is quantized (606) and variable length coded (608) and written as an output bit stream. In the case of I and P frames, inverse quantization 610 and inverse DCT are performed on the output of the quantization process (606) and the prediction (614) is added (602) to new frames as described. Intra blocks do not require prediction and can be quantized without reference to other blocks".

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1-60 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The specification doesn't disclose "spatially reducing images of the incoming video stream by a selected factor and without discarding tile at least one B frame, and such that the at least one B frame is considered during the spatially reducing images".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-59 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Panusopone et al. (US Patent 6647061).

As per claims 1, 19, 39, and 58, Panusopone discloses a system, method, transcoder, and program for transcoding an incoming video stream to reduce the bit rate of the video stream comprising decoding the incoming video stream that includes at least one B frame, where parameters of the incoming stream are extracted from it and used in generating a new video stream (column 7, line 10 to column 8 line 4; tables 2-6, figures 4 and 5), spatially reducing images of the incoming stream by a selected factor without discarding the at least one B frame, and such that the at least one B frame is considered during the spatially reducing images (column 4, lines 44-61; column 15, line 64 to column 16, line 19, column 18 line 35 to column 19, line 7), generating a new video stream that includes spatially reduced images using one or more of the parameters extracted (column 18, line 35 to column 21, line 6), where less than all of the parameters of

the incoming video stream are recomputed for the new video stream (column 4, lines 29-61; tables 2-6).

As per claim 2, Panusopone discloses claim 1, Panusopone also discloses spatially reducing images of the incoming video stream by a selected factor further comprises re-sampling the incoming video stream after it has been decoded (column 4, lines 44-61; column 15, line 64 to column 18, line 34).

As per claims 3, 20, 38, and 40, Panusopone discloses claims 1, 19, 33 and 39, Panusopone also discloses scaling f-codes of the incoming video stream as the f codes are decoded, and scaling the f codes of the incoming video stream after decoding an entire picture of the video stream (column 18 line 35 to column 21, line 6, tables 2-6, figures 4 and 5).

As per claims 4, 22, and 41, Panusopone discloses claims 1, 19 and 39, Panusopone also discloses determining a macroblock (MB) type for each MB of the new video stream (column 7, lines 52-59; column 15, lines 42-63; column 17 line 56 to column 18 line 34; column 19 line 29 to column 20, line 64, table 5).

As per claims 5, 23, and 42, Panusopone discloses claims 4, 22 and 41, Panusopone also discloses determining a MB type for each MB of the incoming video stream that maps to a particular MB of the new video stream, where the MB type of the MBS from the incoming video stream are included in the parameters of the incoming video stream (table 5), weighting each MB type of the MBs in the incoming video stream according to their contribution to the particular MB of the new video stream ; and taking a mean of the MB types from the incoming video stream, and rounding the mean (column 15, lines 42-63),

where the rounded mean determines the MB type for the particular MB of the new video stream (column 7, lines 52-59; column 15, lines 42-63; column 17, line 56 to column 18, line 34; column 19 line 29 to column 20, line 64; table 5).

As per claims 6, 24, and 43, Panusopone discloses claims 5, 23 and 41, Panusopone also discloses determining other flags associated with the MB type (column 15 lines 42-63; column 17, line 56 to column 18, line 34; column 19 line 29 to column 20 line 64; tables 2-6).

As per claims 7, 25, and 44, Panusopone discloses claims 1, 24 and 43, Panusopone also discloses that the flags comprise a quant flag, a forward flag, a backward flag, and a pattern flag (column 14, lines 27-37, table 4, Vop-quant, Vop-fcode-forward, Vop-fcode-backward).

As per claim 8, Panusopone discloses claim 1, Panusopone also discloses selecting motion vectors for each picture that requires motion vectors (column 4, lines 27-61; column 6, lines 1-21; column 8, lines 38-47; column 14, line 55 to column 15, line 63; column 17, line 56 to column 19, line 47; column 21 lines 28-33, table 5)

As per claims 9 and 26, Panusopone discloses claims 1and 19, Panusopone also discloses determining a value of the MVs from the MVs of the incoming video stream (column 4, lines 27-61; column 6, lines 1-21; column 8, lines 38-47; column 14 line 55 to column 15 line 63; column 17 line 56 to column 19 line 47; column 21 lines 28-33; table 5).

As per claims 10, 27, 34, 46, and 53, Panusopone discloses claims 9, 26, 33, 45 and 52, Panusopone also discloses determining a weighted mean scale

value of the MVs from MVs of the incoming video stream that map to a particular MB of the new video stream (column 4, lines 27-61; column 6, lines 1-21; column 8, lines 38-47; column 14, line 55- column 15, line 63; column 17, line 56- column 19, line 47; column 21, lines 28-33; table 5).

As per claims 11, 28, 35, 47, and 54, Panusopone discloses claims 8, 26, 33, 45 and 52, Panusopone also discloses selecting candidate MVs for a particular MB of the new video stream, where the candidate MVs comprise scaled MVs from the incoming video stream and a weighted mean scaled vector; and determining a best MV from the candidate MVs, where the best MV provides a best fit to the data (column 4, lines 27-61; column 6, lines 1-21; column 8, lines 38-47; column 14, line 55- column 15, line 63; column 17, line 56 to column 19, line 47; column 21 , lines 28-33; table 5).

As per claim 13, Panusopone discloses claim 8, Panusopone also discloses selecting weighted mean scaled MVs; selecting scaled Mvs of the incoming video stream', and selecting field vectors (column 4, lines 27-61; column 6, lines 1-21; column 8, lines 38-47; column 14, line 55- column 15, line 63; column 16, line 20- column 20, line 64; column 21 lines 28- 33; figure 6; table 6).

As per claim 14, Panusopone discloses claim 1, Panusopone also discloses generating a new video stream further comprises determining flags of the new video stream from the flags of the incoming video stream (column 4, lines 27-61; column 6, lines 1-21; column 8, lines 38-47; column 14, line 55-

column 1 5, line 63, column 17, line 56 - column 19, line 47; column 21, lines 28-33; table 5).

As per claims 15, 30, and 49, Panusopone discloses claims 14, 19, and 45, Panusopone also discloses determining a Discrete Cosine Transform (DCT) type flag using a weighted mean rounded procedure (column 3, lines 56-64; column 4, lines 43-61; column 7, lines 53-68; column 13, line 33-38; column 16, line 20 to column 17, line 55; column 19, line 47 to column 20, line 64; table 6).

As per claim 16, Panusopone discloses claim 1, Panusopone also discloses determining a quantizer scale of the new video stream using a quantizer scale of the incoming video stream (column 5, lines 5-20; column 6, lines 59- 68; column 7, lines 33-68; column 13, line 44-column 14, line 54; column 1 9, lines 41-50; figure 5; table 3).

As per claims 17, 31, and 50, Panusopone discloses claims 16, 19 and 49, Panusopone also discloses a weighted mean rounded procedure; a weighted max rounded procedure; a weighted min rounded procedure; a weighted median rounded procedure (column 5, lines 5-20; column 7, lines 33-68; column 13, line 44- column 14, line 54; column 19, lines 41-50; figure 1; figure 5; table 3).

As per claims 18, 32, and 51, Panusopone discloses claims 1, 19 and 39, Panusopone also discloses determining a coded block pattern (column 14, lines 27-37).

As per claim 21, Panusopone discloses claim 19, Panusopone also discloses determining other flags associated with the MB type (column 15, lines 42-63; column 17 line 56 to column 18,line 34; column 19 line 29 to column 20

line 64; tables 2-6). The flags comprise a quant flag, a forward flag, a backward flag, and a pattern flag (column 14, lines 27-37, table 4, Vop-quant, Vop-fcode-forward, Vop-fcode-backward).

As per claims 33, 45, and 52, Panusopone discloses a system and program for transcoding an incoming video stream to reduce the bit rate of the video stream, comprising: decoding the incoming video stream, where parameters of the incoming stream are extracted from it and used in generating a new video stream (column 6, line 23 - column 7, line 31; tables 2-6; figures 4-5), spatially reducing images of the incoming stream by a selected factor (column 4 lines 44-61; column 15 line 64 to column 16, line 19; column 18 line 35 to column 19, line 7), generating new MVs for each MB of the new video stream that requires MVs using MVs from the incoming video stream (column 4, lines 27-61; column 6, lines 1-21; column 8, lines 38-47; column 14, line 55 to column 15, line 63; column 17, line 56 to column 19, line 47; column 21 lines 28-33; table 5), determining MB type for each MB of the new video stream, where the MB type is a weighted mean rounded value determined from the MBs of the incoming video stream that map to a particular MB of the new video stream (column 7, lines 52-59; column 15, lines 42-63; column 17, line 56 to column 18, line 34, column 19, line 29 to column 20, line 64; table 5), generating a new video stream, using the new MV, new MB types, the stream parameters, that includes spatially reduced images using one or more of the parameters extracted (column 18, line 35 to column 21 line 6), where less than all of the parameters of the incoming video

stream are recomputed for the new video stream (column 4, lines 29-61; tables 2-6).

As per claims 37 and 56, Panusopone discloses claims 33 and 52, Panusopone also discloses that determining flags of the new video stream from flags of the incoming video stream further comprises determining a Discrete Cosine Transform (DCT) type flag using a weighted mean rounded procedure (column 3, lines 56-64; column 4, lines 43-61; column 7, lines 53-68; column 13, line 33-38; column 16, line 20 to column 17, line 55; column 19, line 47 to column 20, line 64; table 6).

As per claim 57, Panusopone discloses claim 52, Panusopone also discloses scaling f_codes of the incoming video stream as the f_codes is decoded, and scaling the f_codes of the incoming video stream after decoding an entire picture of the video stream (column 18 line 35 to column 21 line 6; tables 2-6; figure 5).

As per claim 59, Panusopone discloses claim 58, Panusopone also discloses f-codes (column 18 line 35-column 21, line 6; tables 2-6); MVs (column 4, lines 27-61; column 6, lines 1 –21; column 8, lines 38-47; table 5); MB type (column 7, lines 52-59); motion type (column 4, lines 27-61; column 6, lines 1 – 21; column 8, lines 38-47; table 5); motion vertical field select (table 5); forward prediction type (column 4, lines 27-61; column 6, lines 1-21; column 8, lines 38-47; table 5); backward prediction type (column 4, lines 27-61; column 6, lines 1-21; column 8, lines 38-47; table 5); DCT type (column 7, lines 53-68); quantizer

scale (column 7, lines 33-68); coded block pattern (column 14, lines 27-37); and DCT coefficients (column 7, lines 53-68).

As per claim 60, Panusopone discloses claim 1, Panusopone also discloses that the new video stream includes at least one B frame (abstract figures 4 and 5; column 7 lines 10-12 and column 18 lines 35-39).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 12, 29, 36, 48, and 55 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Panusopone, further in view of Wee et al. (Secure Scalable Streaming Enabling Transcoding Without Decryption, IEEE International Conference on Image Processing, October 2001). Panusopone discloses claims 8, 26, 35, 45 and 54, Panusopone doesn't disclose performing fine grain motion estimation for the MVs. Wee teaches fine-grain motion estimation for MVs (Wee, 4.3). Panusopone and Wee are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor. At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to integrate the fine-grain estimation disclosed by admitted prior art with the video transcoder disclosed by Panusopone. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to enhance the quality video stream transcoding (Wee 4.3). Therefore, it would have been obvious to

combine Panusopone with Wee to obtain the invention as specified in claims 12, 29, 36, 48, and 55.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Juan A. Torres whose telephone number is (571) 272-3119. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mohammad H. Ghayour can be reached on (571) 272-

3021. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Juan Alberto Torres
02-09-2006


KEVIN BURD
PRIMARY EXAMINER